

well as in many physical and mental states which are not ordinarily considered as dependent upon endocrine function. He believes, for example, that "dementia praecox is a serious and extreme type of endocrine aberration or abnormality evidencing its presence by psychic rather than somatic alterations." He attributes fibroids to overactivity of the posterior lobe of the pituitary. His enthusiasm reaches its height in the following expression: "Medicine is concerned with bacteria on the one hand and the ductless glands on the other, and it is the ductless glands which aid the living body in the perpetual contest with bacteria and bacterial infections." Ten pages are devoted to the author's conception of criminality and presentation of his argument that it has an endocrine etiology.

There is much irrelevant material (Chapter XIII does not mention the endocrine glands at all) as well as extensive quotations from novels and scientific works. There is no bibliography. The five chapters on gynecologic subjects and eighty pages of case histories are, perhaps, the most valuable portions of the book.

The author, throughout, attributes too many functions to the various glands upon purely theoretical grounds, which tendency leads to some startling statements. For example, "When a patient after several hours of sleep awakes and cannot fall asleep again, some endocrine is responsible for the rousing of the upper consciousness, and if we found by questioning the nature of the dream which aroused the patient or the thought or emotion which is now present during his waking state, we can readily discover which of the endocrines are hyperactive at this time."

The book contains many statements similar to the above, and for this reason one is inclined to regard it as a work on "speculative" or "philosophical" endocrinology. It contributes no new, definitely proven facts concerning the endocrine glands.

J. M. R.

Chemical Pathology. Being a Discussion of General Pathology from the Standpoint of the Chemical Processes Involved. By H. Gideon Wells, Ph.D., M.D., Professor of Pathology in the University of Chicago, and in the Rush Medical College, Chicago. Fourth Edition, Revised and Reset. Octavo of 695 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1920. Cloth, \$7 net.

Texts on the exact sciences are uninteresting reading, which fact dissipates concentration. Concentration is absolutely essential to mental assimilation. Unless the subject matter can be properly assimilated, it cannot be properly applied. If you cannot apply what you read, there is no use reading it. Unless the object is entertainment, the value of reading is measured by its usefulness. Perhaps this is the reason why text-books on the allied sciences, such as chemistry, bacteriology, physiology and pathology are in such excellent state of preservation on the shelves of the practicing physicians and surgeons. In this work, however, the author presents the subject in an interesting, as well as logical, manner. Although strictly scientific, it is readable and one might almost say, that it invites concentration. In this era of analysis where nothing but fundamentals satisfy the omnivorous investigators, where the body has assumed the nature of a physical and chemical laboratory and where pathological changes have also definite chemical explanations, this book ought to be found within reach of the interested practitioner.

It is impossible to point out all of its features, there are so many, but it gives the student a new viewpoint in the study of tissue changes. It broadens and emphasizes the simplicity of many

reactions which have been thought to be complicated. After reading this book, inflammation assumes a role that has been only vaguely associated with it. With a rapidly growing importance of the laboratory as a diagnostic and therapeutic aid, this book is one which the general practitioner, specialist and student, no matter what his chosen work may be in medicine or surgery, would do well to familiarize themselves.

J. A. P.

Text-book of Biology. By William M. Smallwood. 4th edition. 308 pp. Illustrated. Philadelphia and New York. Lea and Febiger. 1920. Price, \$3.50.

This book is an interesting résumé of some of the features of biology. It presupposes considerable knowledge of both animals and plants and deals with principles rather than with details. For this reason it strikes one that it would be more useful to a student wishing to review the subject rather than to one just beginning. The various subjects are well proportioned and the style shows two cardinal virtues that the late Dr. Osler stated should characterize all scientific writing, brevity and lucidity.

A. D. E.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY

The regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Society was held April 18. Dr. Samuel Hurwitz, of San Francisco, read a paper on "The Value of Vaccines in Bacteria Asthma," and Dr. Albert H. Rowe presented a paper on "Advice in Diagnosis and Treatment of Hay Fever and Asthma."

On April 12 the Alameda County Medical Society held a luncheon at the Hotel Oakland in honor of Professor John M. T. Finney, of John Hopkins University.

At the April meeting of the staff of Merritt Hospital on April 4, Professor Thomas Addis, of Stanford Medical School, spoke on diabetes. Professor Harold Brun, of the University of California, discussed intestinal obstruction.

Dr. Paul J. Anderson's death was reported from Honolulu, T. H.

FRESNO COUNTY

The regular meeting of the Fresno County Medical Society was held May 3, 1921.

The President appointed Drs. Cowan, Hayden and Cross to act as a committee to restore as far as possible the records of the society which were destroyed in the recent fire at the Forsyth Building.

Dr. J. T. Gardner and Dr. C. M. Vanderburgh were elected to membership in the County Society.

Dr. Harry Spiro, of San Francisco, read a paper on the subject of cardiac dyspnoea.

KERN COUNTY

Regular monthly meeting of the Kern County Medical Society was held Friday evening, April 15, 1921.

Dr. Henry Dietrich, of Los Angeles, discussed the subject of "breast feeding," and read a paper on "Nephritis in Children." His remarks were followed by a general discussion.

Miss D. E. Bradley, County Bacteriologist, spoke in regard to her duties as milk inspector. Her remarks were further added to by Mr. Penfield, dairy inspector for the county.

The following members of the society were present: Drs. Fogg, S. F. Smith, Joe Smith, McNamara, McKee, Buchner, Gundry, Kellogg, Compton and Guinan.

After the meeting the society enjoyed an informal supper at the St. Francis cafe.